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Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries:

"(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

"(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 34th, 35th, 38th and 40th meetings, on 29 and 30 November and on 10 and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.34, 35, 38 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 1 to 3 October (see A/C.2/56/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

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Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Letter dated 24 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué and the Genoa Plan for Africa, adopted at the Summit of Heads of

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State and Government of the Group of Eight, held at Genoa, Italy, from 20 to 22 July 2001 (A/56/222-S/2001/736)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

Letter dated 21 November 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-fifth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 November 2001 (A/56/647)

Letter dated 22 October 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/56/3)

Letter dated 20 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration and decision adopted by the eleventh annual ministerial meeting of the least developed countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 15 November 2001 (A/C.2/56/5)

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/56/297 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on resources available to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/56/434)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the effectiveness of the functioning of the Unit for Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (A/56/208)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2)

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the Secretary-General (A/56/306)

4. At the 34th meeting, on 29 November, the Officer-in-Charge of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/56/SR.34).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.59 and A/C.2/56/L.78

5. At the 38th meeting, on 10 December, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/56/L.59), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 endorsing the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

"*Emphasizing* the importance of a highly visible, efficient and effective follow-up and monitoring arrangement for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, as well as of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community, and relevant paragraphs of the United Nations Millennium Declaration for these countries,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and renewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

"1. *Decides* to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, with its functions as recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 (a) to (f) of the addendum to his report on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to make the Office of the High Representative operational as soon as possible;

"3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to enhance the operational capacity of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in their activities aimed at supporting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

"4. *Invites* Member States to extend all necessary support and cooperation to the Office of the High Representative;

"5. *Invites* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as those of other relevant multilateral organizations, to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

6. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/56/L.78), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.59.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.78 (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.78 (see para. 12).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Canada (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.78, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.59 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Documents relating to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

11. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents relating to the item (see para. 13).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 endorsing the Brussels Declaration[1] and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Emphasizing the importance of a highly visible, efficient and effective follow-up and monitoring arrangement for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing

[1] A/CONF.191/12.
[2] A/CONF.191/11.

States,[3] the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community,[4] and relevant paragraphs of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] for these countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[6]

1. *Decides* to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, having the functions recommended by the Secretary-General in his report on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[7]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to make the Office of the High Representative operational as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to enhance the operational capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as well as that of other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in their activities aimed at supporting recipient countries, especially developing countries and in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

4. *Reiterates* its invitation to the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration[1] and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[2] within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to review the title and functions of its current Office of the Special Coordinator;

6. *Invites* Member States to extend all necessary support and cooperation to the Office of the High Representative;

7. *Underlines* the importance of optimal coordination between the Office of the High Representative and the various organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations;

8. *Invites* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant multilateral organizations, to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative;

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[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2.

[7] Ibid., para. 17.

9. *Decides* that the provisions of the present resolution will be implemented within the approved level of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and requests the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions for the Office of the High Representative;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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13. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents relating to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the effectiveness of the functioning of the Unit for Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;[8]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[9]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on resources available to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries for the biennium 2000-2001.[10]

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[8] A/56/208.

[9] A/56/297 and Corr.1.

[10] A/56/434.